

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAL-01 /122 W

-----242103 032462 /64

P 242010Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4510

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, UR, US

SUBJECT: US/SOVIET MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND FISHING ZONES

REF: MOSCOW 1163

1. THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF NOTE NO. 110S/SHA HANDED
BY MIKHAILOV, AMERICAN DESK, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO DCM
AND SCICOUNS FEBRUARY 24:

"THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS
TO THE US EMBASSY AND REFERS TO NOTE NO 99 OF THE US EMBASSY DATED
JANUARY 24, 1977, AND HAS THE HONOR TO RELATE THE FOLLOWING:
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE INTENTION OF
THE US SIDE, IN SETTING FORTH ITS FISHERIES JURISDICTION, TO
RESPECT THE LINE ESTABLISHED BY THE CONVENTION SIGNED APRIL 18(30),
1867 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR IN CARRYING
OUT ITS MEASURES ENSUING FROM THE DECREE OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE
SUPREME SOVIET OF DECEMBER 10, 1976, TEMPORARY MEASURES FOR THE
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PROTECTION OF LIVING RESOURCES AND REGULATION OF FISHERIES
IN AREAS ADJACENT TO THE USSR COAST, " INTENDS TO ADHERE TO
THE SAME LINE OF THE CONVENTION OF APRIL 18, 1867, IN THE
ARCTIC OCEAN, CHUKCHI, AND THE BERING SEAS. THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE USSR PROCEEDS ON THE BASIS THAT THE USG AGREES THAT THE
LINE ESTABLISHED BY THE 1867 CONVENTION WILL NOT BE USED TO
FIX THE LIMITS OF FISHING ZONES FOR EACH OF THE TWO COUNTRIES

IN THOSE MARITIME AREAS BEING 200 MILES BEYOND THE SEA COAST OF THE US AND THE USSR, INCLUDING THE ISLANDS BELONGING TO THEM."

2. FOLLIWNG IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF NON-PAPER MIKHAILOV ALSO PRESENTED AT MEETING:

" IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMING INTO EFFECT MARCH 1, 1977, OF THE US LAW ON THE PROTECTION OF FISH STOCK AND CONTROL OF FISHING AND ALSO WITHE COMING INTO EFFECT OF THE DECREE OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET ON "TEMPORARY MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIVING RESURCES AND REGULATION OF FISHERIES IN AREAS ADJACENT TO THE USSR COAST," WHEN MARITIME AREAS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA ARE DEMARCATED ALONG THE LINE OF THE RUSSIAN/AMERICAN CONVENTION OF 1867, THE AMERICAN FISHERIES ZONE WILL INCLUDE AREAS SITUATED IN THE MIDDLE PORTION OF THE BERING SEA ALONG THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES:

58 DEGREES, 51 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE
178 DEGREES, 50 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE
61 DEGREES, 45 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE
176 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE
60 DEGREES, 00 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE
179 DEGREES, 40 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE

IN THIS ARE, THE USSR FISHING FLEET CATCHES ABOUT 150,000 METRIC TONS OF FISH, INCLUDING: WALL-EYED POLLACK; 100,00 METRIC TONS; HERRING - 20,000 - 30,000 METRIC TONS; COD - 5,000 METRIC TONS; HALIBUT 4 - 5,000 METRIC TONS; AND FLOUNDER 3,000 METRIC TONS.
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TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ABOVE, THE SOVIET SIDE EXPECTS THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL CONSIDER IN THE APPORTIONMENT OF ITS GENERAL CATCH QUOTA THE CATCH VOLUME TO BE LOST BY OUR VESSELS IN THIS REGION."

3. SCICOUNS REMARKED THAT PROVISIONAL SOVIET QUOTA FOR THE US PACIFIC FISHING ZONE HAD ALREADY BEEN PRESENTED TO THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FISHERIES LAST WEEK. MIKHAILOV MADE NO RESPONSE.

4. MARITIME DEMARCATION STORY IS ALREADY ON TASS WIRES. WE EXPECT IT WILL BE RAISED AT AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 25. APPROPRIATE PRESS GUIDANCE APPRECIATED ASAP.

5. ORIGINAL COPIES OF RUSSIAN TEXT BEING POUCHED EUR/SOV.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, FISHING LIMITS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW02589
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770064-1015
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770213/aaaaalrs.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b66c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 1163
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3241667
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/SOVIET MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND FISHING ZONES
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b66c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009